

My primary concerns are the cave system, the watersheds that will be impacted by the removal of these mature trees, and the impact on Chapman Highway.

In Colonial Village a young developer once attempted to do a build on a property that had a subterranean cave system. Cave systems are like rattlesnakes, better left alone as the geological study found. Not only was the property declared a geologic hazard, but the geologists stated the use of heavy equipment on the acreage could cause ground collapse. These caves are home, habitat, and haven for the deer, bears, and bobcats that utilize this a wildlife migration route, moving through our community and denning there. This build will likely disrupt their habitat and push them into residents' backyards.

Then there's the removal of mature trees that will negatively impact both the Goose Creek and Baker's Creek watersheds. Are you aware that trees act as natural water filters significantly slowing the movement of stormwater, lowering runoff, erosion, flooding, and water pollution thereby lessening expenditures to stormwater management infrastructures? That they stabilize rainfall through evapotranspiration. That a forested area absorbs as much as 20,000 gallons of water an hour, and the infiltration rates for forested areas are 10-15 times greater than for equivalent areas of turf or grass. That tree canopies can intercept up to 28% of a major rainfall. Did you know a healthy Live Oak can consume up to 300 gallons of water each day?

But these trees do more than that. A tree with a circumference of 30 inches removes 200 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub>, 1.1 pounds of ozone, and 2 pounds each of sulfur dioxide, particulates, and nitrogen dioxide every year. Pollutant rate intake increases ten-fold when vegetative surfaces are wet or damp. And large trees store up to 1,000 times more carbon with approximately a 90 times greater

storage rate of carbon than small trees. Making protection of older existing trees critical for reducing CO2 levels.

Trees also reduce urban noise by 15 decibels. They provide shade which reduces temperatures. Trees can add up to 15% to residential property values

And did you know that streets with little to no shade need to be repaved twice as often as those with tree cover? Residential land costs more in services than it pays in revenues. So, when a city cuts down trees to build a subdivision, it is actually poorer.

This build abuts the Urban Wilderness, and the last thing this area needs is the removal of mature trees that will impact this buffer.

I travel that area of Chapman Highway to and from work every weekday. This area is where people begin to speed. There's a speed monitor southbound and every day I see it tracking cars at 55-65 mph. That's dangerous in and of itself, without factoring in the increased number of cars that will need to turn in and out of that road.